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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-03

DODE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SAJ-01 /047 W
---------- 077098
O R 221513Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5798
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)
SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REPORTS FORTHCOMING VISIT OF
SECDEF SCHLESINGER

REF: STATE 230738

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE FOR OCT 22 FRONT PAGED AN ARTICLE STATING THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WILL BE PAYING HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO BONN IN NOVEMBER PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE NPG MEETING IN ROME ON THE 7TH AND 8TH. THE ARTICLE CONNECTS THE DEFENSE SECRETARY'S VISIT WITH U.S. PLANS TO DEPLOY TWO ADDITIONAL BRIGADES TO THE FRG. THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE IS ADALBERT WEINSTEIN, WELL KNOWN MILITARY WRITER FOR THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE WHO HAS GOOD DEFENSE MINISTRY CONNECTIONS. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS.
END SUMMARY

1. BEGIN TEXT: WASHINGTON WANTS TO FORM TWO NEW BRIGADES
IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

MORE COMBAT FORCES INSTEAD OF SUPPLY UNITS/SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER IN BONN AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER.
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AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER IS LIKELY TO TALK WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER ABOUT A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE OPERATIONAL UNITS OF THE U.S. ARMY STATIONED IN THE FRG. AFTER HIS STAY IN THE CAPITAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, SCHLESINGER, WHO IS EXPECTED IN BONN ON HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT, WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP TO BE HELD IN ROME NOVEMBER 7 AND 8.

DURING HIS TALKS AT THE BONN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, SCHLESINGER WILL MAKE PROPOSALS TO HIS GERMAN COLLEAGUE FOR THE OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF TWO NEW U.S. ARMY BRIGADES IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FRG. THEY WOULD BE STATIONED HERE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ATLANTIC SECURITY PLANNING. THE FORMATION OF THESE BRIGADES WILL BECOME POSSIBLE BECAUSE 18,000 MEN ARE TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM SUPPLY AND LOGISTIC UNITS OF U.S. TROOPS STATIONED ABROAD. THIS HAS BEEN DONE AT THE SUGGESTION OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, WHO IS ENERGETICALLY SUPPORTED IN THIS BY GENERAL DAVISON, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE 7TH ARMY. DURING AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE FRG AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER HAD INDICATED TO THIS NEWSPAPER THAT THE 7TH ARMY WOULD BE "GIVEN A STREAMLINED SHAPE." THE OVERSTAFFED LOGISTIC UNITS WOULD BE REDUCED. THE TROOPS THUS SET FREE WOULD THEN BE COMBINED INTO COMBAT BATALLIONS. THESE NEWLY-GAINED OPERATIONAL FORCES WOULD BE KEPT FOR THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE. AS WAS LEARNED AT THE ATLANTIC HEADQUARTERS (SHAPE), THIS REORGANIZATION OF THE U.S. FORCES HAS ALREADY BEEN REALIZED TO A GREAT EXTENT. THE ATLANTIC CINC, GENERAL GOODPASTER, HOWEVER, WILL STILL HAVE TO CLARIFY SOME MATTERS WITH THE ALLIES. IT MUST BE DECIDED WHICH OF THE ALLIED FORCES ARE TO TAKE OVER THE TASKS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AFTER THE INCORPORATION OF THE 18,000 U.S. SOLDIERS, FORMERLY EMPLOYED IN SUPPLY OR LOGISTIC SERVICES, INTO COMBAT UNITS. SOME OF THESE TASKS CAN BE RATIONALIZED, BUT MODERN TECHNICAL ARMIES ALWAYS REQUIRE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TECHNICAL AUXILIARY FORCES.

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THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE IS OF EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE. ALL RUMORS ABOUT AN AMERICAN TROOP REDUCTION ARE CONTRADICTED BY THE FACTS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BRIGADES NOT ONLY DEMANDS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO REQUIRES SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHICH HAVE TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE U.S. AT PRESENT, THE 7TH ARMY STILL LACKS COMPANY COMMANDERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES.

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TO ACHIEVE COMBAT READINESS FOR THE ADDITIONAL BRIGADES,
SPECIALISTS NOW SERVING IN DIVISIONS PRESENTLY GARRISONED
IN THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO BE USED. SCHLESINGER IS KNOWN
TO BE OPPOSED TO ANY EXAGGERATED INTERPRETATION OF THE

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ADVANTAGES OF A DETENTE POLICY. HOWEVER, HIS STRATEGY
NEITHER DISTURBS THE POLITICAL RAPPROCHEMENT OF THE BIG
POWERS WHICH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS TRYING TO
ACHIEVE IN SALT, NOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS ON
MBFR. THE PENTAGON MEASURES DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN
INCREASE IN U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN EUROPE BUT AN
OPERATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF COMBAT TROOPS THERE. THIS
WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE ABILITY OF ALLIED
FORCES IN GENERAL TO PERFORM THEIR STRATEGIC TASKS.

THE SAME APPLIES TO THE REALIZATION OF DEFENSE STRUCTURE
PLANNING IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HERE
DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER INTENDS TO ESTABLISH THREE
ADDITIONAL GERMAN BRIGADES AND CREATE A CONTINGENCY
FORCE OF 30,000 MEN WHILE RETAINING THE SAME PERSONNEL

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STRENGTH. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT LEBER WILL REPEATEDLY INDICATE THIS STRATEGIC CONCEPT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUE. THIS WILL PROVE THAT THE AMERICAN ALLY IS NOT THE ONLY ONE OPERATIONALLY INCREASING ITS CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE. THIS GERMAN EFFORT COULD FACILITATE THE TASK OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS WITH THE
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AMERICAN CONGRESS. WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY TECHNIQUE, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY FORCES BY TWO AMERICAN AND THREE GERMAN BRIGADES WILL CONSTITUTE AN ABSOLUTE IMPROVEMENT IN THE BALANCE OF POWER. DEFENSE EXPERTS REFER TO THE FACT THAT DURING RECENT YEARS THE SOVIET FORCES HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCREASED IN NUMBERS AND REINFORCED THE STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES WHILE WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORTS STAGNATED.
END TEXT

2. IF ASKED TO CONFIRM THAT A VISIT IS PLANNED, WE WILL SAY SUCH CONFIRMATION MUST COME FROM DOD.
HILLENBRAND

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